

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 22, 1998

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-40-98

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
CALIFORNIA STATE FOSTER PARENT
ASSOCIATION
ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, CCL

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Changes
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) annually allocates Title IV-E dollars to individual counties in order to provide life skills education and services to foster youth aged 16 or older. These monies allow counties the option of either operating their own Independent Living Program (ILP), contract for the services, or do both. The purpose of this letter is to reiterate information about ongoing maintenance and responsibilities with regard to ILP services and expenditures.

In accordance with the Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 31-525.1, the ILP is initiated with the county social worker developing a Transitional Independent Living Plan for each eligible youth in placement. This Plan is a major component of the foster youth's case plan because it describes the appropriate life skill services and education so that the youth may experience a more successful transition to living independently. Moreover, the Plan also advises when a youth is ready to secure employment. Combining the services of both plans is essential in creating a more successful outcome for a youth to become independent.

Once the appropriate ILP services have been identified, participation in ILP must become part of a youth's individual needs and services plan in accordance with Title 22, Sections 84068.2 and 88065.3(5) of Community Care Licensing (CCL) regulations. At this point in time it becomes the care provider's responsibility to make sure that all eligible youth in care receive the proposed services. Most importantly, one of the greatest responsibilities a care provider has is to assure the availability of transportation to ILP classes and services. Every effort must be made to remove any obstacle that prevents a youth from learning how to be self-sufficient. Preventing a youth from attending ILP classes as a form of disciplinary action would be a violation of the child's needs and services plan.

As a part of the Child Welfare System Compliance review process, Children's Services Operations Bureau (CSOB) reviews family reunification and permanent placement services case records to determine compliance with federal and state ILP regulatory requirements. These

reviews validate that a written transitional independent living plan is incorporated into the case plan (MPP Section 31-206.37). The transitional independent living plans must describe the programs and services, including employment, which will help the youth prepare for the transition from foster care to independent living (MPP Section 31-525.1). Additionally, CSOB determines if the transitional independent living plan is completed by the time the youth is 16½ years of age.

In an effort to further promote independent living education, the CDSS also has a contract with the California Community Colleges Foundation (CCCCF) to provide self-sufficiency via 50 colleges throughout the state. The contract requires the community colleges to educate current and former foster youth aged 16 to 21 years on independent living skills along with college and career/vocational exploration. In the hope of motivating youth toward higher education, some of these sessions are periodically held on campus to familiarize youth with services and resources offered by the community college system.

To assist in the development of ILP outcomes, the three-year contract with CCCC requires that each youth complete a pre- and post-assessment for each life skills session to determine ongoing competency levels in self-sufficiency. Although this contract is tailored to educate current and former foster youth, some sessions are for adult caregivers in order to complement what the youth are learning. Whether or not a community college and county have a contractual agreement for independent living services, all current and former foster youth may participate in an ILP at any of the 50 participating community colleges.

An additional component of the CCCC contract is for community colleges to train youth on computer literacy and Internet use. The Children & Family Services Division web page (www.childsworld.org) has an ILP site specifically designed for California's current and former foster youth. Information can be accessed for local, state, and national organizations; financial aid for continuing education; a list of all county ILP coordinators; access to the CCCC site listing all ILP community colleges; links to explore job opportunities; and much more. This training creates an opportunity to maintain consistency in independent living education and for the CDSS to maintain an active role in the services being provided.

For further information about the State's ILP, please telephone Lou Del Gaudio, Manager, Placement Resources Unit at (916) 445-0813. Questions about compliance with CCL regulations can be directed to Bob Markell, Manager, Children's Policy Section at (916) 324-4318.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By
Marjorie Kelly on 7/22/98***

MARJORIE KELLY
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division